GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2533
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2005
TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS TO REVENUE GENERATING VILLAGES
Meghwal Shri Kailash

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited is implementing a scheme to make telephone facilities available in all the revenue generating villages of the country;

(b) if so, the number of revenue generating villages where Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has provided the said facility till March 31, 2005 and the number of villages still deprived of this facility as on date;

(c) whether the Government proposes to formulate any programme/scheme for making telephone facility available in hamlets located in hilly and desert areas of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) to (d) The Office of the Administrator Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund has entered into an agreement with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for providing Village Public Telephones(VPTs) in remaining 66,822 unconnected villages which are undisputed and having population more than 100 each. This scheme includes villages in hilly and desert areas.

Out of the 66,822 villages, 7,295 villages have been provided with VPTs by June, 2005.

As on 31-03-2005, BSNL has provided VPT facility to 5,18,992 villages. As on 30.06.2005, there are 59,527 villages which are unconnected. These villages are planned to be covered by VPTs progressively by November, 2007.